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Industrial Worker

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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CHICAGO, ILL., JAN., 1967 360

10¢

Left Side

On Chinese New Year's Day, in a U.S. Chinatown, the community undertaker used to hide out the whole day to spare his neighbors the embarrassment of wishing him a prosperous year. It was a nice, humanitarian thought.

Today we wish you, especially our American readers, a HAPPY New Year but not necessarily a prosperous one! We are hoping for a recession in human slaughter and this is NOT the formula for prosperity in the prevailing social order and under the present management.

"SHORT COUNTING" JOBLESS

Research Director Nat Goldfinger (AFL-CIO) has protested revision of the government's method of measuring employment and unemployment. At issue is the practice of not counting as unemployed those jobless who no longer actively seek jobs. The protest points out that while this group is not large enough to be noticed in good times, it is statistically significant in hard times.

* * *

The average factory worker, according to Business Week (quoting Labor Bureau statistics) is actually in worse financial shape now than he was last year.

* * *

Low and middle income families apparently bore the brunt of the 1966 squeeze. The affluent reaped higher dividend and personal income payments. It'll be likewise in '67.

* * *

The Selective Service system as it now operates, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy told a Chicago audience, "fails in the three most important criteria — fairness, flexibility, and predictability." He claimed it could be improved in many ways. Why bother?

* * *

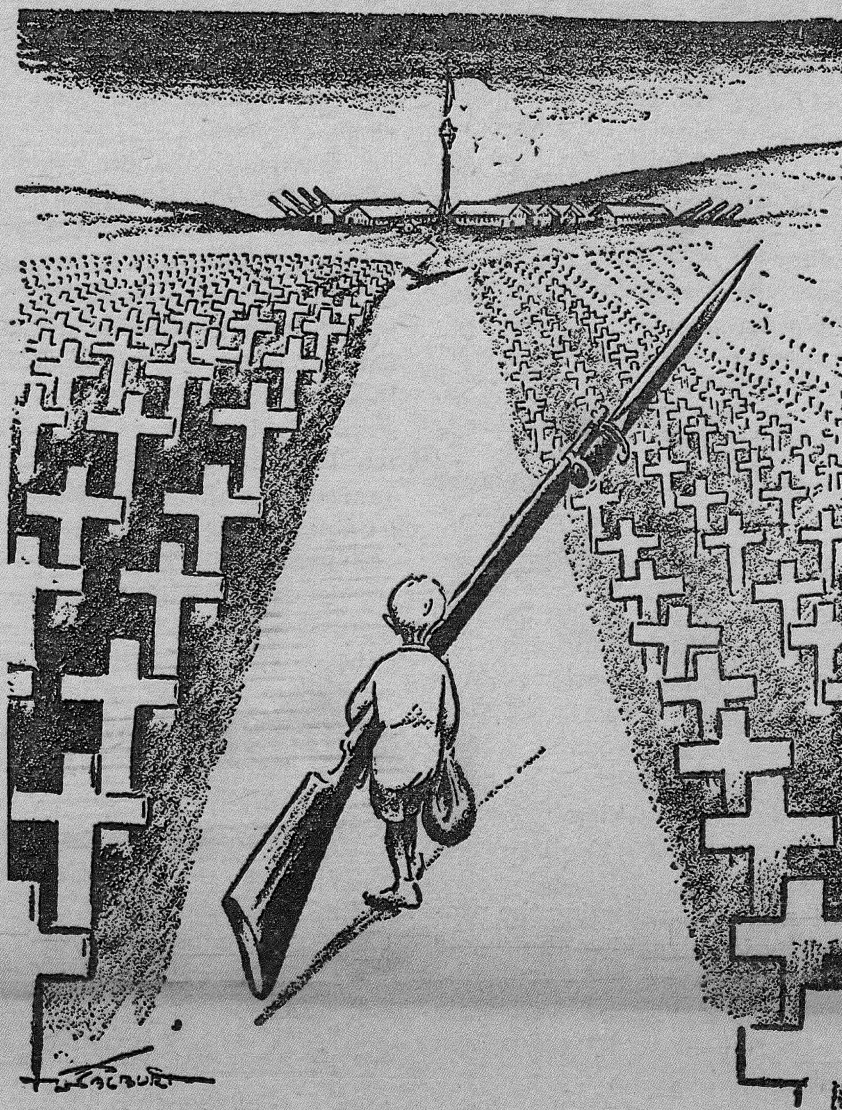
The second worst mistake made by humanity in all its history was setting up a system that makes it possible for the rich to force the poor to do their fighting for them. An earlier, and positively the biggest mistake of all time, was adoption of the custom which allows the scheming few to get rich off the labor and genius of the many.

* * *

Reporters hanging out around the LBJ corral in Texas heard that the cost of the next six months of war could run up to 10 billion dollars more than previously estimated.

Pay no attention to the dollar
(Continued on page 7)

1967: Blessings on the little man — he saves prosperity in Vietnam



Rail Accidents Increase 32 Percent

The Department of Transportation, recent addition to the President's cabinet, hopes to limit its headquarters staff to from 400 to 500 employees. So declares a Washington report which obviously was issued with intention to reassure tight-wad taxpayers and, no doubt, also dollar-hungry railroad management.

Most of the staff will be involved in policy matters and the problems of "coordinating the activities of existing agencies that will be transferred to the new cabinet department." The new department is to commence functioning in January with Alan S. Boyd, designated by Pres. Johnson as the nation's first secretary of transportation, in charge.

It is understood that one of the Department's jobs will be to concern itself with the safe operation of railroads. If it makes even a fair stab at this job, it will find itself in immediate conflict with rail management on questions of labor and safety policy.

In the past two years there has been a 32 percent increase in railroad train accidents. "A national disgrace," Pres. H. E. Gilbert of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen calls it.

Gilbert said that rail accident statistics for the January through April period in 1966, in comparison with the same period in 1965

and 1964, disclose "the almost complete deterioration of all rail safety." He said that collisions increased 26.7 percent, derailments 35.1 percent and accidents from miscellaneous causes 21.6 percent.

Gilbert notes that a 32 percent accident increase in any other industry would be a matter of grave concern to management, but that in the case of rail management "the opposite seems true." He added: "Except for employee organizations, no voice in the industry is raised to plead for safety programs, less hazardous working conditions, and more attention to safe operation than to profit."

The Brotherhood president said that he is convinced that the removal of thousands of firemen and train service employees from their jobs since 1964 has a direct relation to the huge increase in accidents.

Vital Statistics

The number of marriages in USA has been rising steadily since 1960, but the number of births has been steadily declining. Economists attribute this not so much to the "pill" as to the need for two paychecks to live like the Jones, even like the proletarian Jones.

New 'Decoration' For GIs in Asia

Five thousand dockworkers went out on strike December 27 in Saigon, So. Vietnam when native fellow workers in a "nearby docking area" were replaced by U.S. soldiers. Immediately following this act of solidarity, U.S. soldiers were sent down to the Saigon waterfront to do the work of striking longshoremen there and to earn for themselves a non-military decoration — the name of scab.

Nguyen Hoang Tan, secretary general for the port workers' union, urged dockworkers at five other Vietnam ports to prepare for a nationwide strike.

In explaining the beginning of the difficulty in the 'nearby area', U.S. officials seemed to admit that they proposed to make regular use of soldiers on civilian jobs when they declared that the civilians had been hired "temporarily until the soldiers arrived."

We, too, Wear Wage Slave Brand

If we project ourselves into the practical future as Prof. George S. Odiorne of the University of Michigan did, we too, may see a ten year boom ahead in organizing white collar professional workers. He made his forecast even before the AFL-CIO announced in Washington a few weeks ago the creation of a new council for professional workers, which will add scientific and cultural employees to the list of professionals. An estimated 10 million workers in the U.S. would qualify for membership in such a union.

And, the poorly paid office workers and clerical help may one day fall in line with their professional brethren if ever they can be convinced that unions are not beneath their dignity.

Odiorne points out that there are now organizations of air line pilots, actors, newspaper reporters, insurance salesmen, engineers. Why not office workers?

—Minnie Horsecollar

BEFORE HE BECAME PRESIDENT, Lyndon B. Johnson said: "I am against sending GIs into the mud and muck of the jungles of Indo China in a blood-letting spree to perpetuate colonialism and the white man's exploitation of Asians."

"An Injury to One Is an Injury to All" • One Union One Label One Enemy

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There's a World to Gain the Union Way

Year by year more workers the world over are applying for jobs on the wage slave market. Everywhere progress is measured by advances in industrialization. It is true that in this country fewer workers carry red bandanas in their hip pockets to wipe the sweat off their faces. But a job in industry means work for wages and it confers wage-slave status whether the job-holder sweats at it or not.

The total number of people forced to earn their livings by wage labor of some kind is increasing. The relative importance to society of the wage or salary worker is increasing.

Mechanization, automation, cybernation are not reversing the process that since the industrial revolution has been making the whole world increasingly dependent on work done by wage slaves. When, as in some industries now, the number of workers is reduced even while production is increased, those workers who remain on the job retain all the importance that the greater number held before.

Besides this, it is becoming more evident every day that if the world is to remain an almost fit place for human habitation there will have to be uncounted millions of new jobs created. Just cleaning up the waste and repairing some of the worst damage done to Mother Earth by destructive methods of wealth production will for a long time to come prohibit any diminution of the workforce.

Even though joyful, though not always wise, procreation of new slaves builds up populations faster than needed, labor's potential power and its importance are not lessened. The weight of the entire social and economic superstructure still rests on the backs of workers. It rests not on machines or on those who own the machines, but on the PEOPLE who design, make and operate machines — on the working class.

Misinformation workers who haven't learned to think for themselves, timid workers who are afraid to think, "busy" workers who don't want to take on new obligations, individualistic workers who just want to escape from the ranks of the working class—if only to become a strawboss, by stepping on the necks of other workers—these all join employer propagandists in claiming that the LABOR MOVEMENT is losing (or never had) the potential power to bring to birth a new social order. Intelligent workers with ambition to organize are not deterred by the pessimists among us.

Faith in the ability of the working class to set up a better social order is amply justified by the fact (who will dispute it?) that it has within its ranks all the talent and good-will common to all humanity. It has, besides, the numerical strength and the strategic position. Remains only the need for intelligent organization. This, it must be admitted, will be attained only by overcoming tremendous opposition.

But more great days of labor history lie ahead. Revolutionary industrial unionism is what this country needs. The world needs it. It is the way of escape from destructive wars, from race and national conflicts, from exploitation, and from government by a parasite class.

It's up to us who are already in the fight to convince new workers (and old ones) that "holding down a job" is more than a means to earn a living, that it's also an opportunity to educate and organize. Every union man and woman can, in some degree, be an agitator and an organizer.

What could be less convincing than a speech by the President of the United States in which he asserts again that we are fighting in Vietnam because of a "commitment to defend democracy"?

Really, the Outlook Is Brighter

Scholarly and not so scholarly evaluations of labor's position at the end of 1966 appearing in various journals agree that it was a bad year for the unions. This verdict is based chiefly on evidence collected in the political field. According to this, and if one assumes that labor union strength is to be measured by its influence in national and state elections, it is certainly true that the UNIONS lost ground. They lost many of their "friends" in Congress and in several state legislatures. So there is a lot of woe among the leaders of the show-case unions. MEMBERSHIP is indifferent.

The November disaster topped-off a very, very barren labor legislation record and the money spent — dues payers' money — for lobbying and political education went down the drain without paying a single dividend.

Enemies of labor, hopefully looking for evidence of decline and impending fall of American unionism, have not failed to find the figures in the Statistical Abstract of the United States which show a percentage decline of union membership between 1955 and 1965. (From 24.4 per cent of the workforce in 1955, to 21.9 in 1964.)

What is really indicated by this record of union regression is: (1) Union members, generally, prefer direct action to political action and they are almost uniformly not in sympathy with the AFL-CIO leadership's involvement in the political game. (2) The AFL-CIO unions, or the Teamsters either, haven't got what it takes to arouse the unorganized to action **against** their employers; and these unions are having trouble finding employers in the unorganized field who will cooperate voluntarily with organizers in signing-up their slaves.

Under the circumstances, this is not the time to bemoan the sad state of unionism in the United States. A defeat for present leadership policies is good for the movement.

OPPORTUNITY UNLIMITED

Many people consider the IWW an inconsequential force, an anachronism on the modern American scene. Labor, they say, has it made. Most people have a car, a TV, and live fairly well. Why should such an organization exist today?

We Wobblies are directly to blame for this state of affairs. By 'copping out' and citing the apathy of workers, or by claiming that our smallness and lack of equipment are retarding us, or that there are more important things than organizing workers, we rest on past laurels and let our rationalizations for inaction become reality by default. We can then indulge ourselves in some grumbling about how bad things are today.

Things **are** bad these days, and it is just that fact which forbids us such an easy escape. 1966 was a record year for strikes; for unorganized workers forming unions; for previously organized workers changing unions through dissatisfaction; and, as ever, with the people who most need organizing completely ignored by the unions. In view of this, is it not criminal of us not to do something?

We have, in the IWW, an organization tailor-made for all wage workers who are ready to unite and demand more of life's bounty for themselves and their fellow workers. Our past victories, despite our fewness in numbers, demonstrate the validity of our program. These have never been easy victories. They were paid for by the blood of those who carried the banner of Industrial Unionism through beatings, and torture; to prison, the lynch mob, and the firing squad, with

firm belief in the justness of their cause.

Perhaps such thoughts strike us as being a bit fanatical in these days. Perhaps such fanaticism is necessary. It is not enough to just paste blue stamps in red books. Far better would it be to forget Industrial Unionism and join the Knights of Labor in some safe history book.

What can we few do? We can talk to working people. Ask if they are organized, ask about their job conditions, tell them about the IWW. Don't worry about scissor-bills who think they have it made. Many workers do not have it made, and know that they don't. It is to these men and their families that we must carry our message.

In short, the only working people we have to get moving are ourselves. The others will join us in ever increasing numbers as they see what we have to offer, especially if they've had experience with boss-dominated unions. It's up to us to help these fellow workers organize NOW and organize RIGHT!

—X323510

MINI-GRAVES COST MORE

The New Jersey Monument Builders charge that corpses in New Jersey are buried in short graves. Attorney for the builders reported recently that the cost of graves has spiraled 800% in less than 10 years. In addition, many graves are now seven by seven and one-half feet instead of the traditional nine feet.

* * *

The basic problem is to eliminate exploitation of man by man. We won't eliminate it by uniting nations. We need to unite workers (the exploited) with complete disregard for national boundaries.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

BRANCH MEETINGS

HOUSTON, Texas. — Robert (Blackie) Vaughan is the acting Secretary of the Houston I.U. 510 branch. All communications intended for the branch should be addressed to him at 7505 Navigation Blvd., Houston, Tex. 77011.

* * *

SAN FRANCISCO. — Michael Brown, 26 Prospect Avenue, San Francisco, Calif. 94110, is acting secretary for the branch pending decision on the opening of a new branch office.

* * *

BERKELEY, Cali. — For information about meetings, socials, and other activities contact Robert Rush, Secretary, 1723 10th St., Telephone: 524-1989.

* * *

DULUTH, Minn. — Write to Pat McMillan, Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 559 for information and contacts.

* * *

CHICAGO branch general membership meetings are now being held on the first Friday of the month at 2422 N. Halsted Street. W. H. Westman, Secretary.

* * *

NEW YORK CITY — Branch Secretary is Douglas Roycroft. Mailing address and business office: 71 East 3rd St. No., 14, New York, N.Y. 10003. Tel. 477-2758.

* * *

YAKIMA, Wash. — For information about work and organization opportunities in the fruit and farm areas of Eastern Washington, get in touch with George C. Underwood, 102 South 3rd Ave., telephone GLencourt 3-2046.

* * *

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — IWW Stationary Delegate, P.O. Box 46583, Los Angeles; or call EX 88110.

Inducement to Labor

A TV documentary on the flood in Florence showed once again that when a community disaster breaks the web of doing what we are told to do and paid to do, mankind can still rise up to human stature. Florentians and foreigners, many of them students from American, European and Asiatic countries, stood in the mud day after day, to pick up old books or other treasures and pass them up the line to those who would continue the operation of salvaging these bits from the story of man. No one told them to do it or asked them to do it. It was something to be done, and done with considerable coordination, and they did it.

"Liberty is not a gift that one receives from a state or a leader."
—Albert Camus

We Assert These Rights

The people of a nation whose government commits itself to a policy of the status quo are an oppressed people. Such a government is in the hands of ambitious and unscrupulous men who govern for the purpose of furthering their own selfish interests and those of their loyal supporters. They are steadily resistant to social change, for change, to them, means progress, a weakening of their power over the lower classes.

They are loudly devoted to a degree of democracy that permits them to proclaim social ideals quite unrelated to their own desires and aspirations.

Any changes brought about by war do but tighten the coils of the status quo about the lives of the people like those of a boa constrictor about the body of its helpless victim. The people so governed have asserted for them a patriotism that is devised in the interest of the controlling class.

Such is our nation and such is the social order under which we live. We are a governed people, not a people who govern, but we know it not. What we have here in America is but a travesty on Abraham Lincoln's "government by the people, for the people, and of the people." Since when have the poor, the common people, sent one of their own kind to Washington to represent them in Congress? It just is not done, because government opposes that degree of democratic expression.

The workers produce, but do not govern. They are twice governed, first by their employers and then by their political governors.

The poor, the weak, and the underprivileged go about their daily affairs unprotected from the rapacity of the more powerful members of our society. And, over all, they pretend a religion that is neither holy nor Christian. These practical politicians preach a philosophy of patriotism, piety, and capitalism.

As of this period in our historical development, many of our young men are coerced into the armed forces because of the economic security they find there.

When a nation, assertedly engaged in a war on poverty, can find no better employment for its workers than to train them for mortal combat in Vietnam, or some other far-off land, its people are, indeed, sadly oppressed. Young Americans, landing on foreign shores, destroying and killing as they come, become, in their turn, oppressors.

This is my land, by right of birth, this is my nation, by right of tradition; this my people, by right of kinship, but, alas, this is not my government, by right of choice. Democracy has not yet reached down to me, for I am of the common people, who have never known it.

—J. F. McDaniels

JOIN US AT
2422 N. Halsted St.,
2nd Floor, Chicago,
Tuesday Evenings

In the New Year coming up RESOLVE to drop in on the class in Labor History on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. at the Hall. The class is complete with information, conversation and a coffee break.

Beginning January 10th with a discussion of Controls over Unions — 1950's to the present, we'll talk about Hoffa and Hot Cargo, Right to Work and Foreign Flag Ships.

January 17th, the following Tuesday, will be a review of tactics of organizing and some theories about organizing migratory workers.

January 24th will be a review of the psychological and social aspects of organizing, January 31st we'll talk about Cybernetics and Automation (also known as Abolition of the wage system — or abolition of the wage worker?). February 7th will be a grand summary and evaluation as we talk about what we do after this ten week course has been finished. The class began on November 21st and attendance is building up each

week.

If you're around Halsted and Fullerton of a Tuesday evening, join us.

—Class Secretary

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According to a directive issued by the Postmaster General, Washington, D.C., it becomes mandatory that after January 1, 1967, all second-class controlled circulation, such as the Industrial Worker, must have the ZIP CODE on all subscriptions and bundle order addresses in order to retain the status of second-class mailing rights.

We therefore, ask our subscribers and bundle order agents whose ZIP CODE we haven't as yet on their address label to furnish us with the same in order that we may comply with this new postal regulation.

Preamble

• **THE WORKING CLASS** and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of management of the industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

• **IT IS THE HISTORIC MISSION OF THE WORKING CLASS** to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

PAGES FROM IWW HISTORY

THE SPOKANE FREE SPEECH FIGHT, 1909

BY RICHARD BRAZIER

(Continued from last month)

The Spokane City Fathers treated with contempt our threat to fill their jails to overflowing if they persisted in their plan to stop our street meetings. It was they said, idle talk and just hot air. But it was noted that they had taken over an old delapidated schoolhouse and were rushing repairs on it. It was the Franklin Schoolhouse, long condemned as a fire hazard. This was to be used as an emergency jail in case need for more jail space arose.

The old building had long been empty. It was an eyesore which neighborhood kids had thoroughly vandalized. It was in such shape that, despite the hasty repair job, it still was unfit for human habitation. Despite their alleged contempt for the Wobblies, it was clear the "Fathers" had their little fears and doubts.

Their fears were well grounded. Later, when the Free Speech fight waged hot, they found that the city jail and the schoolhouse together were not enough to house the prisoners and they had to ask the Government for use of the Military Prison at near-by Fort Wright where a Negro regiment was quartered.

No one ever learned why the Federal Government should have butted into a purely local issue to help the side that was trying to deny the right of free speech to its citizens, and to oppose those who were fighting for rights that the Government is supposed to guarantee. It remains a mystery, for no explanation was ever given. Of course, this was a time when the Robber Barons were still openly robbing the country of its natural resources.

Meanwhile, in the period of preparation for the "opening date," November 1, 1909, when the anti-free speech ordinance was to go into effect, the IWW call for footloose volunteers was heard throughout the land. The IWW promise to flood the city and its jails brought on further threats from the city boses. They would, they said, put all their prisoners to work blasting and crushing rock. They claimed they already had contractors to buy the crushed rock for road-surfacing jobs.

The Wobblies sarcastically invited the City to go ahead. It would take the men out of the stinking jails into the fresh air. "So go ahead and buy the equipment for your rockpiles," they said. "But don't forget," they added, "if you expect to get any work done, you'll have to pay union wages and provide good food and suitable living quarters." Also, "why don't you get the employment sharks to foot the bill since it is their fight you are waging?"

Needless to say, the "Fathers"

made no reply to these suggestions, but neither were there any rockpile operations set up.

About this time a proposition was conveyed to us in a round-about way by a friend of two of the councilmen who evidently were not happy about their role of catspaw for the employment sharks, whose chestnuts they were expected to pull out of the fire. This friend of the councilmen wanted to know if we would be willing to hold our street meetings in a street away from the Slave Market where the sharks carried on their business. We refused even to discuss the offer. We turned it down with an emphatic "NO."

During this period we did not slacken our efforts to build organization. We continued to expose the gypping methods of the sharks. We had our pickets with "Don't Buy Jobs" placards out every day. In addition, we distributed handbills exposing the job-selling racket, giving many case histories showing how workers were swindled.

November 1st, 1909 was the day when their law banning Free Speech became the law in fact, and the Free Speech fight began in earnest. We had so many men on hand then that we decided to play "cat and mouse" with the cops for the first day.

The cops were massed in full force all through the Slave Market section and, evidently were expecting us to gang up in front of the Employment Offices and do our speling there. But we had many Wobblies infiltrating the crowds and sizing up the positions the cops had taken. Their layout was reported back to the Wobbly Hall and then, instead of sending our speakers out to where the cops were waiting, we sent them two or three blocks away. Soon the cops were running helter-skelter in all directions. The Wobblies in the crowds knowing exactly where their speakers were, headed and herded the crowds in the right direction.

For this occasion we had selected as a kind of a bell-wether to draw the crowd, a chap noted for his stentorian voice. We frequently had used him as the first speaker at our meetings to gather the crowds. He had a voice so powerful and penetrating that anyone within a radius of five or six blocks could hear him. If any human voice could raise the dead he had the voice to do it; and, best of all, he could make quite a good talk. But on this day his mission was to gather the crowd for the speaker he had with him. Once the crowd had assembled he introduced the other speaker, then moved on to another spot where another speaker was to do his stuff, and there repeat his stentorian call to arms until another

crowd had assembled. Of course the other speakers would all get picked up and run in. But it was quite a while before they nailed him.

But this man was in Spokane to be jailed and he got a great kick out of giving the cops the run-around. Some of the very old timers may remember. He was a Londoner who, so he said, got his training in Hyde Park, where you had to learn to shout long and hard to be heard. His name was Jim Patten — a good old Wobbly.

Other Free Speech fighters were sent out at intervals by ones and twos on that first day, and occasionally in larger groups, to say their little pieces. The individuals sent out first were to scout the slave market area. Wherever there was a crowd of workers, they commenced to talk, best they could, in the manner of regular speakers.

If there was no cop nearby some of the boys were able to make a short, snappy talk before being arrested. Others were tongue-tied or had stage fright and could only holler, "We want free speech"; or, being entirely without skill in public speaking, they called out, "Where's the cops?"

But whether they could talk or not, the speakers always had the audience on their side. This was to be expected for the crowds were infiltrated with Wobblies who led the cheering for the speakers and also the baiting of the cops when the latter arrived. Pushing his way through a tight-packed crowd, a cop would hear the customary remarks about his depraved ancestry, along with questions such as: "Have you ever read the Constitution?" "Don't you believe in free speech?" "What is this, Czarist Russia or free America?"

It happened on a few occasions that a speaker managed to slip away while the cop, having had a tough time pushing his way to the middle of the crowd, found himself at last facing an amused audience and without a speaker to arrest. Of course, the speaker had not really run away from the fight. He was still on the firing line, remembering the adage, "He who fights and runs away will live to fight another day." It was the avowed intention of all those enlisted in the fight to fill the jails of Spokane to overflowing. Eventually and in good time all made the "can".

This preliminary scout action, as it may be called, tested the sympathy of the workers on the streets and the vigilance of the police. Before the day was over and later at night we were to send out speakers with larger escorts of members. Meanwhile we kept the individual fighters moving to all parts of the slave market. This somewhat mystified the police who had figured that we would

do all our talking in front of the Employment offices. But we had no intention to neglect the sharks. We had plans for later on.

As the day wore on, the police, thinking they had solved our strategy, began to scatter their forces the same way we had scattered ours. When we learned that, we moved a large contingent down to the main stem of the slave market where the sharks had their offices and set up our soap box for the first major engagement in the Spokane Free Speech Fight.

The first speaker to mount the box was an old soap-boxer who wasn't tongue-tied and who was immune to stage fright under any conditions. His loud sonorous voice soon brought a crowd who cheered his every word. This brought the cops on the run. But it took them ten minutes or more to get through to the speaker. He had done his bit. He had made a fine speech and was content to go to jail.

With the arrest of the first speaker, the Wobblies melted into the crowd, but as soon as the cops with their prisoner got out of sight, another Wobbly speaker got on the box and continued from where the first speaker had left off.

The police came again, this time in larger force and made another arrest. The process was repeated several times more and the police, now with greater force and expertise, cut down speaking time of each new soap-boxer to about five minutes. Even so it took them more than an hour to round-up this particular contingent of Wobbly Free Speech Fighters. I was one of this first group.

Later that night, we sent out the largest group of the day. We had held this crew until late in order to cause the police as much inconvenience as possible, and to make them work a double shift if we could.

Over one hundred Free Speech Fighters were arrested in that day and night. We showed the City Fathers that our promises were not idle boasts.

It was late at night before the round-up of the hundred and more Free Speech fighters was finally completed, and the last group of prisoners — about 20 in all — having been booked by the desk sergeant, were forced to stand in line, in a narrow passageway that led to the receiving cell, between a double line of cops with their clubs in their hands. Two or three of the Wobblies who, evidently, had seen this caper before, whispered instructions, that were passed along the line, that this was "running the gauntlet." So, "bend low, keep your heads down, zig-zag from side to side a little, and stay close to their legs, and run like hell."

In the meantime the inside jailer had opened the door that led to the receiving cell. The mo-

(Continued on page 5)

SPOKANE FREE SPEECH

ment they saw that, the leading Wobbly shot off like a bat out of hell, and the rest followed hot on his heels. Very fortunately the distance from the booking desk to the receiving cell was a short one, and, luckily, too, the narrow passage did not give the cops room enough to swing their clubs, so they mostly prodded at the runners with their clubs. The end result being that, except for a slight bump or two, no one was hurt very much.

Of course, when the news of this "running the gauntlet" got outside, the IWW papers — especially the Industrial Worker — gave it great publicity. It must have been effective since that kind of caper was never repeated again. However, there were a couple of occasions when the jailers gave the Wobblies a taste of the "Black Hole of Calcutta" kind of torture. This happened when, with malice aforethought, they deliberately packed prisoners in the receiving cell tighter than sardines in a can. Then the jailers turned the steam on full blast, and left them all standing on their feet, there being no room to sit down, for two hours taking what we called the sweat-box treatment. One can imagine how they suffered in that sweltering heat in that tightly packed cell which had no water or any kind of sanitary conveniences. And one can also imagine the inborn sadism that actuates men like those jailers who set in motion such tortures and carry them out, willingly and with delight.

To some extent the weather conditions determined our tactics. Winter was setting in and Spokane, although an inland city, had quite a few snappy, below-zero days in its winter season. However, there were always some hardy souls who with their heavy overalls, Mackinaw coats and winter underwear would brave the elements and make their speeches somewhere along the Slave-Market area where some kind of a crowd could be depended on to gather.

But there were times when these hit and run tactics were varied by small mass forays that generally caught the cops off base. Then there would be a lot of hurrying and scurrying by the cops trying to round up the many small bunches of Free Speech fighters who brashly invaded their territory and were speaking on their sacred streets. These raids were carried out mostly on cold, dry moonlit nights when the exercise of running around to find likely places to make a speech would keep them warm. But, in order to keep up appearances, and to show we were still in the ring, we would, whenever we thought it necessary, send out a few men even if the weather conditions were not of the best.

But, of course, everything de-

pended upon the number of men we had available. Plenty of men around meant plenty of action, and plenty of work for the cops. If men were scarce at any time we drew in our horns a bit. But still were able to show that the Free Speech fight was still raging, and we were still on the job of testing the validity of their anti-Free Speech ordinance on the so-called banned streets of Spokane.

After the heavy blow we had hurled at the City Fathers on the first night of the fight when over a hundred men were jailed, and the jail itself was jammed near to overflowing, and we had showed the city officials that we meant business, and would carry out our promise to fill their jail, we thought that we had proved our intentions to the hilt.

We knew that we could not keep that pace up every day, so we began to use our flow of manpower more systematically and nurse it carefully. No more than a hundred men a day jailed but, rather spread a hundred men over a week. This was done, and the five hundred arrests the first month made a good showing.

In the beginning of the fight the city officials thought that the jail would be large enough to hold all the IWWs they expected would be coming to test their anti-Free Speech ordinance. But having to arrest more than a hundred men the very first day, gave them other thoughts. For they immediately began to use the Franklin Schoolhouse, previously mentioned, as their second jail. So, next morning, after a real Kangaroo Court kind of trial, in which we all received 30 day sentences in rapid succession, some 35 to 40 of us were taken to the patched-up, abandoned schoolhouse to serve our sentences. Later on they had to wangle the Government's, or the U.S. Army's permission to use the prison facilities of Fort George Wright to contain the overflow of men arrested when the city jail and the Franklin schoolhouse could hold no more. The Fort was garrisoned by a regiment of Negro soldiers who were much more humane than the City bulls were.

It has always been a mystery how the City got that O.K. from the Government, or the Army (we never knew who gave the permission) to park their excess prisoners on Government property, when the City itself was violating a Federal and Constitutional law, and, at the same time, was jailing men who were upholding the law the City was disobeying. It was a Chinese puzzle to us which we couldn't solve.

But at that time we were still in the "Robber Baron" era and the Government was just a handmaid to Big Business, as personified by the Morgans, Carnegies, Rockefellers and others, who

were still engaged in looting the resources of the country and exploiting the workers to the hilt. Naturally Government and Big Business of those days would unite to clip the wings of any rising, Radical Union such as the IWW was. We saw what happened a few years later when the war clouds enveloped the land, when all the power and force of Government and Big Business united in an attempt to annihilate the IWW.

Still, in spite of the extra jail they had begged, borrowed or stole from the Government — or the Army — they still had to find room for the Free Speech fighters coming to Spokane from all over the Pacific Northwest, California, Montana and Idaho. This they did by doubling-up the occupants of the cells in the city jail, and cramming as many as they could into the large classrooms of the old schoolhouse. But at Fort George Wright, we were told, the Army officers would not allow any overcrowding. They wanted to be sure they would have room enough for their own military prisoners.

It was estimated that about 500 arrests were made during the first month of the Free Speech fight. This was the high-water mark of the monthly arrests made during the long fight. But by December winter had set in, and weather conditions did not allow for massive demonstrations. So we had to conserve our manpower and harass the cops and the city officials with guerilla hit and run tactics, with occasional small forays, and pick out our spots wherever we saw crowds assembled.

How many men took part in this Free Speech fight is a matter of conjecture. Some records were kept, but when the police finally raided the Union hall and closed it, they took all the records with them. It is, however, estimated that 11 to 12 hundred men were arrested in that fight. Many of them were repeaters, men who were arrested more than once.

One of the two most impressive sidelights of that fight were the hunger-strikes in the jail and the old schoolhouse. These were pulled off in the first week. They were in protest against poor and scanty food, and crowded and unsanitary conditions. The men thought they would be safer on pure water than on impure food and poisonous coffee, that threatened them with poisoning every time they tried to eat the disgusting mess handed them. They stuck it out until several men became sick from close confinement and lack of food. Then the Union ordered the men to end the strike and, if no improvement followed, they could strike again whenever they deemed it necessary. Some improvement did follow but not much.

The second event that attracted great public attention was "the march of the hungry men" from

Poverty Stupefies

A year of school has wiped out the gains of Head Start.

The Head Start program had proven in summer classes that one could give the slum kid a lift out of the slum mentality. Intelligence tests of these pre-school age children jumped under this stimulus.

But now after a year of school, and the same deadening conditions in poverty stricken homes, and the effect is about wiped out.

The moral is not that head start should be eliminated, but that the stimulus to compensate for slum conditions, needs to be continued after school has begun.

Katzenbach's Conundrum

LBJ took Nicholas Katzenbach away from his chore as undersecretary of state to come up with a formula how to avoid strikes that generate national emergencies. He is supposed to come up with something that doesn't end the right to strike, doesn't require compulsory arbitration, but prevents national emergency strikes.

Chief trouble is the difficulty unions have to put pressure on the employers who say no. The squeeze at times seems to hit almost everyone except them. That might be the key to the conundrum.

Truckers Gloat

Trucking Employers Inc., a new bargaining committee for the country's biggest trucking firms, is reported to be reneging on earlier proposals for new contracts with the teamsters' union. With union President James R. Hoffa facing an 8-year prison term as a result of the Supreme Court's recent ruling, this employer group expects to cut down teamster aspirations for substantial wage hikes.

Why Negroes come to Northern cities: They are starving in the South. They are not needed on the plantations. White aristocrats are not really needed either, but they own the land, the machines and things. So needed or not, everybody in this crazy system thinks it's all right for them to stay and that everybody else who is not needed had better get out.

Some Zips Missing

The Industrial Worker mailing list is still in need of the zip code numbers of some subscribers. All U.S. subscribers have a zip code number as a part of their address. If we haven't got yours, please send it in.

the Franklin Schoolhouse to the city jail, where we were to take our first bath in over two weeks.

(Continued in the next issue)

POETS AND PLUNKERS

MAYORS OF MARBLE

by Morgan Gibson;
\$1.00, Great Lakes Books,
733 East Clarke Street
Milwaukee, Wis. 53212

SONGS FOR PEACE

Compiled and edited by the
Student Peace Union;
Introduced by Pete Seeger;
Oak Publications, \$2.95.

THE PANIC IS ON

and 62 other songs outrageous,
irreverent, subversive and far
out;
Compiled by Jerry Silverman;
\$2.95, Oak Publications;
165 West 46th Street,
New York City 10036.

"Bombs have stolen our thunder
paled our lightning
ruined our rain.
Storms no longer terrify.
We laugh when disasters are
merely
natural and switch the channel
for massacres."

This is only an example of one
of the selections from a small
book of poetry among whose ti-
tles you will find such things as:
Washing Dishes During the Cuban
Crisis, Escalation Hymn, The De-
vine Peggy Defies White Power,
The World Peace Masquerade and
The Cybernetic Saint.

Morgan Gibson, a literature
prof on the faculty of the Univer-
sity of Wisconsin, father of two
young girls and husband of a poet
of equal rank with whom he has
jointly published a previous book
of poetry is the author of this
sixty-four page volume of poetry.

While this poetry is not neces-
sarily written in a more plebian
language, it is full of biting com-
mentary on many of the things
that should put our fellow citizen-
ry up in arms. Long an active par-
ticipant in the civil rights move-
ment and as the parent of grow-
ing children, an active propa-
gandist against war, he turns his
biting pen against those facets of
our modern society that stand in
the way of building a better
world. Not only does he aim his
barbs at the establishment alone
but with equal venom he hurls a
few broadsides at some of the
world-savers who often place ex-
pediency above idealism.

"All the poor folks love our
Johnson
Commies cast their votes for
Johnson
Soldiers of the Peace Offensive."

For those whose interest runs
more to plunking a guitar than
poring over volumes of poetry the
two Oak Publications, Songs For
Peace and The Panic Is On are the
latest additions to the libraries of
those who cannot mount a soap
box sans gut-box.

The first mentioned book is

supposed to be a comprehensive
collection of anti-war songs past
and present with numerous for-
eign numbers both in the original
text and translation. Notable
omissions are some of the classic
Wobbly gems such as Christians
At War, Don't Take My Papa
Away From Me and Chaplin's The
Red Feast which only recently has
been set to music by one of our
younger Fellow Workers. Even
with these omissions it is still an
asset to any budding finger-pick-
ing rabble-rouser as well as
worth-while addition to the libra-
ry of the collector of protest
songs.

For those who feel that a mes-
sage must be gotten through the
back door by appealing to those
in search of entertainment only,
The Panic Is On might just be
their out.

The emphasis in many of these
songs is oftentimes double entendre
sexual but many others are sat-
ires both ancient and contem-
porary on topical subjects. Every-
thing from psychoanalysis and the
double standard to militarism, re-
ligion and automation is in for an
unmerciful lampooning in this
volume.

Though some of the sources
seem a bit questionable, many of
these are based on the great folk-
lore of political satire. An added
attraction of this book are the
many illustrations featuring re-
productions of such great names
in social commentary as Hogarth,
Kaethe Kollwitz, Art Young,
George Grosz, Daumier and many
others including anonymous
works of long forgotten folk ar-
tists.

—Carlos Cortez

No Santa Claus

Too bad, Santa is gone. He had
a job at Levin's Department Store
in Asbury Park, N.J. but got ar-
rested for shop-lifting. He was
charged with stealing a bottle of
men's cologne and a 37-cent con-
tainer of corn and calus remover.
We can now no longer look to
Santa to do it for us, and George
won't. As Byron put it, "who
would be free, himself must strike
the blow," or as Marx advised, the
emancipation of labor is a union
job anyway.

"There is no instance of a coun-
try having benefited from pro-
longed warfare."

—Sun Tzu-wu, 500 B.C.

Socialist Objects to Leftist Tag

My apologies for being so tardy
in replying, but I must say some-
thing about the quote you used
from the Socialist Party of Cana-
da election manifesto in your No-
vember editorial comment.

You attributed it to, "A Cana-
dian left politician taking a slam
at U.S. war policy," etc. As the
writer of the manifesto I would
like to point out that I am not as
you describe me. Leftists see
nothing wrong with the class di-
vision of society, into master and
slave, although they object to its
effects. As a Socialist I advocate
common ownership (not state) of
the means for producing and dis-
tributing wealth, by, and in the in-
terests of society as a whole,
thereby ending the capital wage-
labor relationship.

The left-wing is just as neces-
sary as the right-wing to keep the
bird of capitalism flying.

Leftists have always been in the
vanguard with reforms to patch
up the profit system, on the sur-
face, which aid in preserving the
old system at its base. What the
leftists advocate today, the centr-
ists and the rightists will legislate
ten or twenty years from now.
Many of today's laws were the
lofty ideals of the so-called So-
cialist Party of America in the
US, and the Co-operative Com-
monwealth Federation (in Cana-
da), a couple of decades ago. With
the inauguration of their ideas
came the disbandment of the
wooly-minded crusaders who
pushed them. Now they are re-
organized behind new utopias, still
trying to make capitalism do
something beyond its nature, that
is, to function in the interests of
society.

Not being Socialists, leftists do
not understand capitalism, and
consequently seldom if ever, per-
ceive the causes of war. They
stage pathetic and fruitless pro-
test marches against this war, or
that social inequality, while sup-
porting the productive relation-
ship that causes these things.

If it is implied that I am a left-
ist, then by the same token I will
be associated in the minds of
many with Lenin's forced labor
camps; with the British Labor
government's strike-breaking ac-
tivities; with Russia's sale of arms
to India, Pakistan, and the Middle
East; with Sweden's high suicide
rate; or with Soviet-Cuban spon-
sored guerilla violence for a slice
of the markets and materials of
South America; or perhaps with

the Chinese atom-bomb backed
bid to relieve the U.S. of its con-
trol of the wealth of South East
Asia.

But, being a Socialist, I spend
my time exposing the outmoded
social relationship that gives rise
to this social insanity. In many re-
spects I include the IWW among
the politically immature, while at
the same time realizing your good
intentions. But remember, that
old road to Hell is paved with
them.

—J. G. Jenkins, Victoria, B.C.

On Being Human

There is a great to-do these
days, what with accounts of ter-
ritorial claims by birds and re-
cords of the charred and broken
bones of early man, to build up
a picture that our far distant
origins doom us to remain na-
tionalists and at war. It is no long-
er the style to recall that man's
most primitive weapons are not
suitable for hunting and killing
men, and that primitive cannibal-
ism is regularly found to be not
for food, but for ritual or magical
reasons, such as to honor the dead
or to acquire their courage.

The evidence has no bearing on
the modern cannibalism by which
personal income rises along with
Vietnam casualties, and there is
nothing in our germplasm that re-
quires us to have politicians or to
pay taxes to them, or for the ag-
gregates of those who pay taxes
to the same sets of politicians
periodically to massacre each
other on command. That is a so-
cial arrangement and it can be
arranged much better.

But our creativeness has pre-
human origins. Two chimpanzees,
Betsy and Congo, will put on a
somewhat Picasso-like art show
at Chicago's Field Museum in
January. Their custodians explain:
"When an attempt was made to
increase the quality of Congo's
work by giving him a reward for
each picture, the quality fell off,"
and, "Take their paint brush
away, and they'd bite you; take
their banana away and they
wouldn't."

Big Fraud

"This buy and sell business of
ours is a magnificent fraud. Com-
petition may be the life of com-
merce, but it is the ruin of the hu-
man mind."..... —W. B. Yeats

WOBBLY PICNIC

Brought here by songs that still are sung in streets
Where men are stoned for wanting to be free,
Refusing to be holes in pasteboard cards,
Disgusted by our country's bloody lies,
Deprived of truths that men need more than food
We shaggy young come here to honor you;
We watch you show off gaudy, fading scars,
Survivors of absurd, suppressed revolts
That failed to rouse the numb, sad working stiffs

(The final blow hits from the ruling class
Who half the time forget to howl with rage
And laugh or say "we thought you died";)
We say you live, and praise you here today
With angry, honest, if inexpert, verse;
We thank you for these fragments of a
glorious past
Preserved in your astonishing gang of saints.

J. Quinn Brisben

Pamphlets Received for Review

SMASH THE WAGE FREEZE!

This is straight workingman's talk about the current effort of the Labour Party to patch up capitalism in Britain. Bill Christopher, the author, touches on all the high and low spots in this little 8-page Direct Action Pamphlet No. 9. Price 2d; add for postage. Order from SWF (Syndicalist Workers' Federation), 34 Cumberland Rd., London, E. 17, England.

Describing a situation that is not too remote for consideration by workers in the U.S., the pamphlet states:

"A wage freeze is the only solution any government can offer when faced with a financial crisis, don't let's be fooled that a 'communist' government would act any different. Many Russian have known a wage freeze all their lives, the only difference being that for them it was for the Glory of the Fatherland, for us it is to Make Britain Great.

"The only common-sense way to attack the wage freeze is by industrial action — and not necessarily by a complete withdrawal of labour. Working to rule, any agreements that don't suit break: if it's good enough for leaders to break agreements, it's good enough for us.

"Remember Cripps and his attempted wage freeze? The organized workers knocked it to hell, and it's them who will have to do it again, maybe piecemeal at first, guerilla tactics, strike here and away, strike there and go on. . . .

"All workers in this country are facing a crisis, not only in terms of working conditions in holding what they have, but in terms of real unemployment. 'Redeployment' is a phony for the majority, and certainly no consolation to the unemployed workers in a 'one industry' area.

"Without getting emotional about the whole affair, the challenge has been made. If it is not taken up seriously, the future for the working people of this country is very bleak indeed."

A wage freeze is an order from government and employers directing workers to live on less—to eat less. They've got other uses for our ham-and-egg money; like they want to spend it on war. U.S. workers have tangled briefly with wage "guidelines", a kind of feeler for the freeze which may be attempted here.

UNHOLY ALLIANCE: This is a 16-page pamphlet by George Foulser. It is No. 10 in the Direct Action series issued by the SWF. Price is 6d. (About a dime in U.S.) It's the story of the British 1966 Seamen's Strike. As such, it is necessarily the story of a sellout by sailors' union officials and of betrayal or desertion by a number of labor's political so-called friends.

Background of the strike which briefly last summer lit up the in-

dustrial scene with a few startling flashes may be found in part in the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 which to this day shackles seamen on British ships to a slave routine. One humorous note about the Act, says the author of the pamphlet, is the seamen's comment on the power conferred in the Master by the Act: "The only thing a skipper can't do to a bloke is put him in the family-way . . . and he'd do that if he could."

In 1961, British seamen had won the 44-hour week "as official union policy"; also, the owners had agreed to allow the 42-hour week by May, 1965 and the 40-hour week in 1966. But here is where the 56-hour settlement came into the picture. Quoting from the pamphlet:

"In February 1965 Hogarth & Co. (the top union leaders) signed a backdoor agreement with the owner putting seamen on a 56-hour week of 8 hours a day, seven days a week. This was not putting the clock back to 1960, it was putting it back to Nelson's time. It meant that seamen on day work could be worked every day of the week for eight hours. Even in sailing ship days, day workers could look forward to Sunday as their day of rest."

Hogarth managed to keep the membership of his union in the dark about the 56-hour agreement until a month prior to the end of nominations for delegates to the AGM. In larger ports, rank-and-file members succeeded in getting their own delegates elected. But with 90 per cent of the membership at sea, officials in smaller ports handpicked the delegates, and small ports have enough delegates to dominate the vote.

When the 56-hour bombshell exploded, rank-and-file opposition all over the United Kingdom was quickly organized. Hogarth the union head was "forced to make like a militant to save his hide." For the first time in 50 years the National Union of Seamen took industrial action against the owners.

According to Foulser, the strike was a failure, from the workers' point of view, and this failure was at least largely the result of deliberate manipulation by "Hogarth and Co." The strike didn't get support of London dockworkers; no serious effort to enlist international support was undertaken, Australian Wharfies were not even asked to "black" NUS vessels.

"And Hogarth heeded the voice of the membership and called for solidarity action from all those longshoremen's and seamen's unions which had pledged their aid. Know what we got from all of them (bar the Finnish Seamen's Union, bless their ol' cotton socks)? Procastinatory measures, excuses, even a few quid here and there . . . but no action to black

NUS vessels as we had asked. . . . And, says Foulser:

"The last and most ignoble of all the ignoble acts perpetrated in the phoney strike was the sudden sellout using the patriotic gimmick, 'We're putting the country's interests before our own.'"

This gimmick contained the essence of the Unholy Alliance of union leaders, shipowners and politicians that was lined up against the rank and file in this strike.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

The Committee to Aid American War Objectors, P.O. Box 4231, Vancouver 9, British Columbia, Canada, is distributing a free pamphlet for the information of Americans who wish to emigrate to Canada. It is quite possible that descendants of men who side-stepped Kaiser's and Czar's demands for military service a few generations ago, on invitation from the USA, will find something of interest in this pamphlet.

'House of Labor' Is Not Its Home

Hints of a rift in the leadership of the AFL and CIO combination between George Meany and Walter Reuther are mentioned from time to time. It is rumored that Meany is now the presidential favorite. That is, he is the man who carries the ball for the White House, who keeps us wage slaves from making too many demands for more pay, who delivers labor support for the war.

As number 2 man Walter Reuther has a chance to do some independent thinking. He might encourage some opposition among unions to the Vietnam War, but this may be asking too much.

What he has done is to activate Industrial Union Councils all over the country. Perhaps these Councils can come up with some stirring thoughts about the position of the worker and the power of the worker.

A grant has been given to Reuther from the Stern Family Fund to study "community unions" for the slums, similar to the type of organizing done by SDS and SNCC. Maybe as a result of the study and the Councils the CIO membership will be stirred up.

Also, Reuther has invited Cesar Chavez, organizer of the grape workers' strike in Delano, California, to go with him to Latin America. This trip may mean that another labor leader is being bought off. Let's hope not.

—J.S.

100 Million Slaves

The country will have to find jobs for a labor force of more than 100 million workers by 1980, claims Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

Vietnam War to War on Poverty: "Get off the road, I've got seniority and priority."

LEFT SIDE

(Continued from Page 1)

figures. Just try to visualize the labor wasted—billions of hours of labor that could be joyfully applied to making this a happier world.

No, it's not too "way out" to suggest that the Great Society is being shot to hell on the pitiful battlefields of Vietnam. Everybody knows about the cuts in "anti-poverty" funds. But then, the Great Society was never meant to be more than bait for votes in a political campaign. Fancy anyone believing that the working people of this country could get all the good things they have been missing without having to fight for them inch by inch on the industrial battlefield right here at home!

* * *

When you join the IWW you enlist in a cause. You are not merely buying a union membership and paying for union protection, just as you might buy an insurance policy. You are, rather, involving yourself in a social and economic struggle, to whatever extent you can, for a better world community.

My First Strike

Industrial Worker:

A Happy New Year to all you stalwarts who refuse to give up. Sorry that 88 years on top of my bald head are weighing down a little too hard. My life has been varied with plenty of hard knocks, and I mean real hard knocks. I can still remember my first strike, which was won. There was no one around to sell us out. That was in '98. That was one time the United Fruit Company found out that cops could not sail a ship. That strike was an eye opener.

—Louis Moreau

A Survivors Union

It's getting so that only survivors are left in the oil industry. Few young workers are hired. Automation more than keeps up with the death and retirement rate. Before old timers check out (one way or the other) automation has already caught up with them. Meanwhile there is increased output of oil products.

Oil workers' union goal is to provide that all present and regular employees be guaranteed continued employment as long as they last. It's a limited objective. The One Big Union has a solution for the whole problem.

REMEMBERING DEBS

The Eugene V. Debs home in Terre Haute, Indiana has been named a National Historical Landmark by the Parks Division of the U.S. Department of the Interior. When the guy was alive they named him traitor and locked him up in a federal prison.

Let's Be HUMAN

BY HARRY FLEISCHMAN

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Paraphrasing the children's song of a few years ago, colleague Sonya Kaufer pipes up, "All I want for Christmas is a two-front peace"—in Vietnam and on the racial front at home.

CORRECTING FALSE IMAGES

A 17-year-old Negro girl, a senior in a New York high school, was asked on a test: "If you lived in the early 1800's, would you have been a liberal or a conservative." She replied: "I would have been neither. I would have been a slave."

Her answer was marked wrong, but her gut reaction was wiser than her teacher's. Last week, however, I was at a conference with 1,350 teachers who would have given her a perfect score. These teachers, almost equally divided as to color, were gathered under the auspices of the American Federation of Teachers to wrestle with one of the toughest problems in American education—correcting America's racist—and false—image of the past.

Professor James McPherson of Princeton noted that in the 30's and 40's, editions of the textbook, **Growth of the American Republic**, by Samuel Eliot Morrison and Henry Steele Commager, referred to Negro slaves as "Sambo," maintained that they were adequately fed, well cared for, devoted to their masters and better off than Northern workers. A passage in the textbook, **Cavalier Commonwealth**, commissioned by the state of Virginia and revised in 1963, still refers to slavery as a form of "comprehensive social security."

Massive demolition of "Reconstruction History" was undertaken by noted historian Dr. John Hope Franklin, who pointed out how Southern historians, aided and abetted by novels like Thomas Dixon's **The Klansman**, sold the nation a bill of goods. After the South had been beaten down, the fable holds to this day, Federal forces kept the vanquished under the iron heel for the duration of the Reconstruction period. (Woodrow Wilson put his stamp of approval on this theme when he gave **The Birth of a Nation**, the American motion picture epic based on **The Klansman**, its White House premiere in 1915.)

The truth, as Dr. Franklin pointed out, is vastly different. Federal troops were few in number in the South, and most were stationed at regular forts or barracks, as they were in other parts of the country. The new constitutions set up under Reconstruction gave the South for the first time a democratic system of public education, charitable and welfare

institutions, and economic development programs—all denounced by former slaveholders as "a blackout of honest government." Moreover, within ten years after the surrender at Appomatox, eight rebel states were again under the control of white Democrats.

Another speaker, the noted actor and writer, Ossie Davis, showed how even the English language could be used to batter Negro children, already smarting under the assaults of segregation, prejudice and discrimination. **Roget's Thesaurus**, he noted, contains 120 synonyms for **blackness**, 60 of which are distinctly unfavorable, such as blot, smut, sully, dingy, evil, unclean, threatening, foul, **Whiteness**, on the other hand, contains primarily favorable synonyms such as purity, shining, chaste, fair and honorable. Thus, continued Davis, the Negro child learns "60 ways to despise himself, and the white child 60 ways to aid and abet the crime."

school boards and publishers to The conference vowed to press wipe out distorted versions of history and replace them with honest textbooks. It is a fight important to all Americans—white as well as black.

* * *

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"One of the most striking differences between a cat and a lie is that a cat has only nine lives."

—Mark Twain

Imperialistic Brain-Picking

The Pan-American Health Organization reports that in the last five years three thousand Latin Americans have obtained university educations in Latin America but came to U.S.A. to make more money and to stay. This costs Latin America \$60 million a year for educational costs to train and export talent that is needed even more there than here. Each year 300 doctors leave Latin America for USA. This saves the USA the cost of building and operating three teaching medical centers. States the report: "In these terms the value of the physicians coming to the USA is roughly equal to all US medical assistance to Latin America."

Some of the assistance most often thought of as untarnished is aid in establishing colleges in the "backward" countries. We used to import grown-up laborers from abroad where they could be raised to maturity at less cost than here. Now we bring in the finished university products or the bright students, keep the chemists and physicists and mathematicians and engineers, and send back the lawyers, political scientists and theologians.

Probably it's not planned that way—merely inherent in the system.

Story of 'Time Out' for Living

When it's still an hour to quitting time and your arches begin to let you down, it may be some sort of a consolation to remember that once upon a time our forefathers were fools enough to work still longer. Not way, way back, just four or five generations back.

Most old cultures had considerable leisure even for the slaves. In the English background of our own industrial culture, up to 1750 the cottage factories didn't work over 10 hours a day; and earlier artisans worked less, according to Thorold's old work "Six Centuries of Work and Wages."

But inventions and capitalism lengthened the work week to a hundred hours in 1800. In England in coal mines in 1842, men, women and children toiled 14 and 15 hours a day. Here in the New England states in 1832 at least 40 percent of the factory hands were between 7 and 16 years old, and working up to 15 hours a day. None worked fewer than 10 hours.

In 1890 the Aldrich Senate Committee dug back and concluded that in 1840 in nine major American industries, the hours averaged 11.4 per day, ranging

from 9 hours in the white lead industry to 14 hours in cotton goods; in 1890 they found a 10 hour average, ranging from 9.3 from those who had "city hall" jobs in municipal public work to 12 hours in breweries and paper manufacture.

By World War I most building crafts had the 44 hour week, but of factory workers, only 12 per cent worked 48 hours or less; 27 per cent worked 60 or more hours.

Between 1890 and 1920 weekly hours dropped in unionized industries from 54.4 to 45.7, and in non-union industries on average from 62.2 to 53.5.

During the prosperous and crazy twenties, the factory work week lengthened from a basic 48 to 54. The 40 hour week was not legally standardized in interstate commerce until 1938.

If we were to record the hours worked outside the home, per family, per week, it is questionable if we could show a gain in the reduction of hours resulting in a net increase of leisure time. It is certain that the "golden age of labor" still lies ahead.

Shop Craft Demands to Get the Works

At year's end 300,000 U.S. railroad workers, including the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, largest train-operating union, and the Railway Clerks, largest of the off-train unions, had accepted the five per cent wage raise offer and "liberalized" vacation offer made by employers.

On the other hand, six unions representing the shop crafts consisting of near 150,000 skilled workers, on December 21 notified the National Mediation Board that negotiations with the railroads were deadlocked. The shop crafts asked Francis A. O'Neill, Mediation Board chairman, to start remaining procedures of the Railway Labor Act.

Under the Act, O'Neill is re-

quired to propose final and binding arbitration of the issues. But union officials were already on record against agreeing to arbitration and it was understood they would set a strike date.

When a strike date is set, President Johnson will declare a national emergency and appoint a board to investigate the dispute. Appointment of a board automatically postpones strike action for at least 60 days.

The six unions not satisfied with the companies' offer are machinists, electrical workers, sheet metal workers, boilermakers and blacksmiths, railway carmen, firemen and oilers. They are asking a 20 per cent wage raise.

FUTURE LABOR SHIFT

The National Planning Assn. in a study made for the government predicts that the U.S. labor force in the year 2000 will be much differently distributed than it is today. Here are some of the changes predicted:

Manufacturing, now 25 per cent of the work force, to drop to 18 per cent; trade, now 19 per cent, to drop to 17 per cent; miscellaneous services, now 18 per cent, to rise to 28 per cent; and government employment, now 13 per cent, will go up to 17 per cent.

Agriculture, according to the report, now employs 6 per cent of the workforce but will require only 2 per cent 35 years later. Other categories will remain almost unchanged percentage-wise, says the report.

Sign of the Times

Chicago's internationally known population expert, Dr. Philip Hauser, has a tiff with Chicago's superintendent of police, Dr. Wilson. Estimating various phases of growth, Supt. Wilson figures that in the ten years to 1975 Chicago crime can be expected to increase by five percent. Dr. Hauser says we should expect much more for the age 15 to 24 age group will increase by 30% in that decade and it is this group that gets involved in 70% of the crime.

It used to be that a community felt optimistic when it found that a large number of young people were coming of working age; but now to the experts it is simply a sign of a probable rise in crime.